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MONO NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA—NEVADA

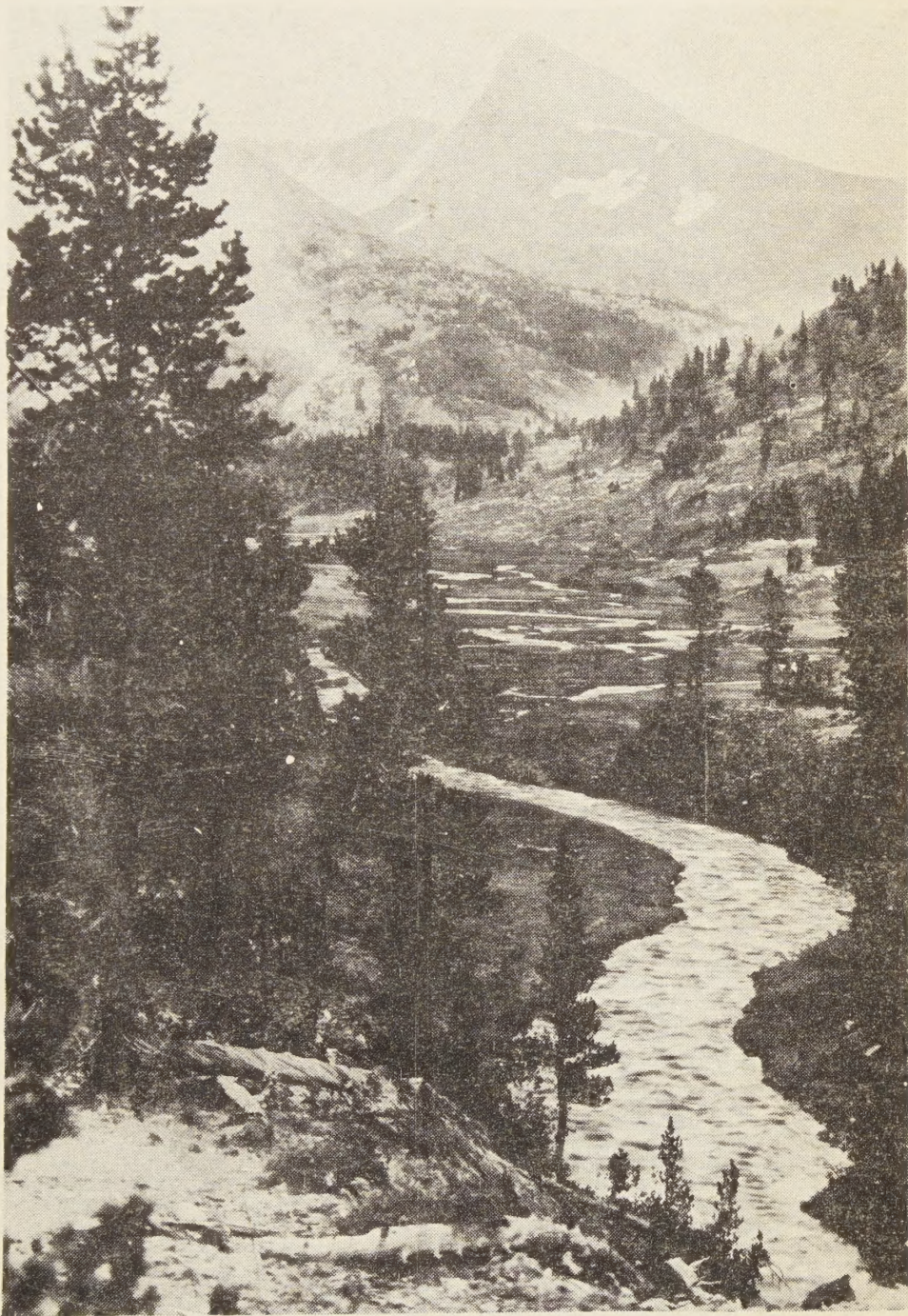


PHOTO BY EDWARD A. HESS

Dana Mountain (13,050 feet) and Glacier, Mono National Forest

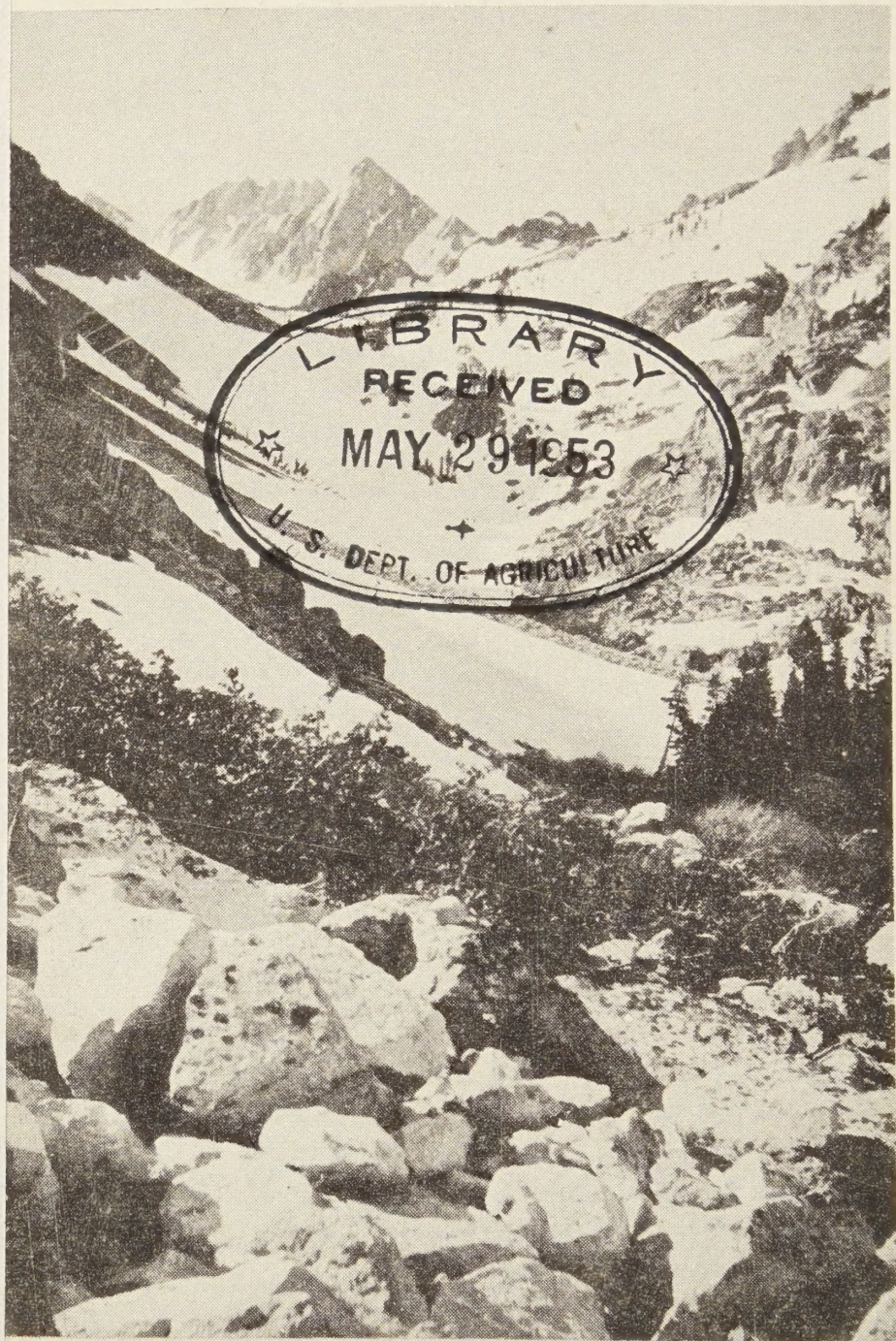
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

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MONO NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA—NEVADA



F-160218

The crest of the Sierra Nevada near Green Creek Canyon
Mono National Forest

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1928

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Region

MONO NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA—NEVADA

The Mono National Forest covers 796,034 acres in Alpine and Mono Counties, California, and 464,502 acres in Douglas, Lyon, and Mineral Counties, Nevada, a total area of 1,260,536 acres of Government land. It is located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, between the southern end of Lake Tahoe and the divide between the Owens River and the Mono Lake drainage. To the east of the main forest and distant a few miles lies the Excelsior Mountain division.

Mono derives its name from the Monache Indians, as the Yokuts, their neighbors, called the tribes of this region. The Monaches were closely related to the northern Piutes of Nevada and the Bannocks of Idaho. Two branches of these tribes are now locally recognized—the Piutes of Bridgeport and Mono Lake and the Washoes of Carson Valley and regions farther north.

In the Mono region the Sierra Nevada break abruptly to the plateau country of eastern California and western Nevada. Sheer granite peaks, deep canyons, and numerous lakes formed by glacial action and fed by rushing mountain streams make an unusual ensemble of rugged mountain scenery. Within the forest are the headwater drainage basins of two branches of the Carson River, the east and west forks of the Walker River, and Leevining and Rush Creeks.

EARLY EXPLORERS

The region within and adjacent to the Mono National Forest was the scene of many of the earliest expeditions and explorations of the West.

Jedediah Strong Smith, intrepid explorer, crossed the Sierra Nevada south of Sonora Peak near Emigrant Pass in May, 1827, and was the first white man to do so. Smith had previously led a party from Utah by way of the Mojave Desert into southern California, and from there had traveled northward into the San Joaquin Valley. Being anxious to return to Salt Lake City, he essayed to cross the Sierra with his entire party but encountered such heavy snow that the trip was abandoned. Smith then left the party and with only two companions made a second and successful attempt.

In 1833 a party under Capt. Joseph Walker, after whom Walker River was named, crossed the Sierra summit, probably via Bloody Canyon, and is credited with discovering the Yosemite Valley.

During the winter of 1843-44, Gen. John C. Fremont with his famous guide, Kit Carson, passed, with numerous hardships, through most of this country. Fremont finally crossed the Sierra at a point now known as Carson Pass, on the Carson Pass Highway. Many of his camping places have been identified and appropriately marked.

The explorations of the Mono Forest region up to 1840 were mainly in the interest of fur-trade extension. Then came the period of gold excitement. Among the first prospectors was Leroy Vining, who located in 1852 in what is now known as Leevining Canyon.

NATURAL FEATURES

Hot springs, both in their natural state and improved for bathing, are common at intervals along an earthquake fault line paralleling the lower slopes of the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Numerous extinct craters are found in the Mono basin, and are of exceptional interest to the geologist.

Mount Lyell (13,090 feet), the highest mountain in the Mono Forest, Mount Dana (13,050 feet), Mount Conness (12,565 feet), and the Sawtooth Ridge, contain the remnants of glaciers, with much evidence of recent glacial action in the form of polished cliffs and moraines. Nearly all of the hundreds of small lakes found in the Mono Forest are due to glacial action. Reversed Creek was so named because its original course was blocked by a moraine. Near June Lake,



PHOTO BY C. O. VALENTINE

Mono Lake—the "Dead Sea of America." This lake, lying at an elevation of 6,426 feet, is 18 miles long by 14 miles wide and has no perceptible outlet. A species of brine shrimp is the only permanent animal life existing in these waters

close to the highway, one sees the "perched boulder," a massive balanced granite rock of 350 tons, left by glacial action.

Mono Lake, called the "Dead Sea of America," lies at an elevation of 6,426 feet, in a basin into which the Tioga Road leads from the west. The lake is 18 miles long, 14 miles wide, and 152 feet deep and has no perceptible outlet. Its waters are an unusual compound, with many chemical

substances in solution, and are said to have certain curative properties.

A species of brine shrimp, found in great abundance and eaten by gulls and various other aquatic birds, is the only permanent animal life existing in Mono Lake. Paoha Island, from an Indian name meaning "Spirit of the Mists," is in the center of the lake and has an area of 1,400 acres.

To the south of Mono Lake and adjacent to the national



PHOTO BY C. O. VALENTINE

Leevining Canyon and the Tioga Road (left). Mono Craters in the distance. Mono National Forest

forest is a range of volcanic cones, the Mono Craters, noted for their height and the symmetry of their curving slopes of gray lapilli. This range is about 10 miles long, with great cones rising 3,000 feet above the lake. The craters are composed mostly of acidic lava occurring in compact obsidian or volcanic glass and in part of pumice so light that it floats in water. They have been extinct a long time as measured in years, but as their last eruption took place after the glaciers had retreated up the canyons of the Sierra, to the geologist their formation was an event of yesterday.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Mono National Forest is made generally accessible by six main highways and several secondary automobile roads. El Camino Sierra—the Sierra State Highway—from Mojave and southern California points to Reno, Nev., parallels the main range and crosses part of the forest from north to south.

The forest is traversed from east to west by the following five trans-Sierra highways:

The Tioga Road through Yosemite National Park crosses the summit at Tioga Pass (elevation 9,941 feet) and joins the Sierra Highway near the confluence of Leevining Creek and Mono Lake.



F-181528

Tioga Pass, elevation 9,941 feet. This gateway marks the boundary between the Mono National Forest and the Yosemite National Park

The Sonora-Mono State Highway passes through the Stanislaus National Forest over Sonora Pass (elevation 9,624 feet) and joins the Sierra Highway at Bridgeport.

North of the Sonora-Mono Highway is the Ebbetts Pass Highway through the Stanislaus National Forest. This highway crosses the summit at Ebbetts Pass (elevation 8,800 feet), and turning north goes by way of Markleeville and joins the Sierra Highway at Gardnerville.

Across the Eldorado National Forest is the Carson Pass Highway, which crosses the summit into the Mono Forest at Carson Pass (elevation 8,600 feet) and joins a branch of the Lincoln Highway from Meyers to Woodfords and Minden, near Willow Creek in Hope Valley.

The Lincoln Highway from Placerville to Carson City connects near Edgewood, Nev., with a highway running via

Kingsbury Grade to Minden and Gardnerville on the east and Woodfords on the south.

These highways form the main automobile routes between southern California, the Yosemite Valley, Lake Tahoe, and Reno, Nev.



F-210858

The Ebbetts Pass Road in the Mono National Forest

The Mono National Forest is also accessible from the north by the Virginia-Truckee Railroad from Reno via Carson City to Minden, from which point automobile stages connect, in the summer, with Lake Tahoe, Mono Lake, and Bishop in the Owens Valley.

RESOURCES

Timber

On the Mono National Forest there is an estimated stand of one billion board feet of saw timber, composed largely of Jeffrey pine, and over one billion cords of fuel wood. There



F-178971

Forage is one of the most important resources of the Mono Forest, and grazing permits are annually issued for 5,000 head of cattle and horses

is as yet no demand by lumbermen for large quantities of timber from the Mono, and the forest cover is at present most valuable for watershed protection.

Forage

Forage is the most important resource of the Mono Forest in present use. There is a wide variety of stock range—



F-185035

Eighty-six thousand sheep annually graze on the mountain meadows of the Mono National Forest

the grass lands along the streams at lower elevations, the browse ranges in the timbered country, and the high mountain meadows. Grazing permits are issued annually by the Forest Service for 5,000 cattle and horses and 86,000 sheep. Allotments are made only to qualified stock owners. The number of stock grazed by each permittee is limited to the carrying capacity of individual ranges, and the stock is so distributed as to utilize fully all the forage without overgrazing or injury to the producing capacity of the range.

Water

Two hydroelectric power projects are located on Government land in the Mono Forest. Two more are outside the

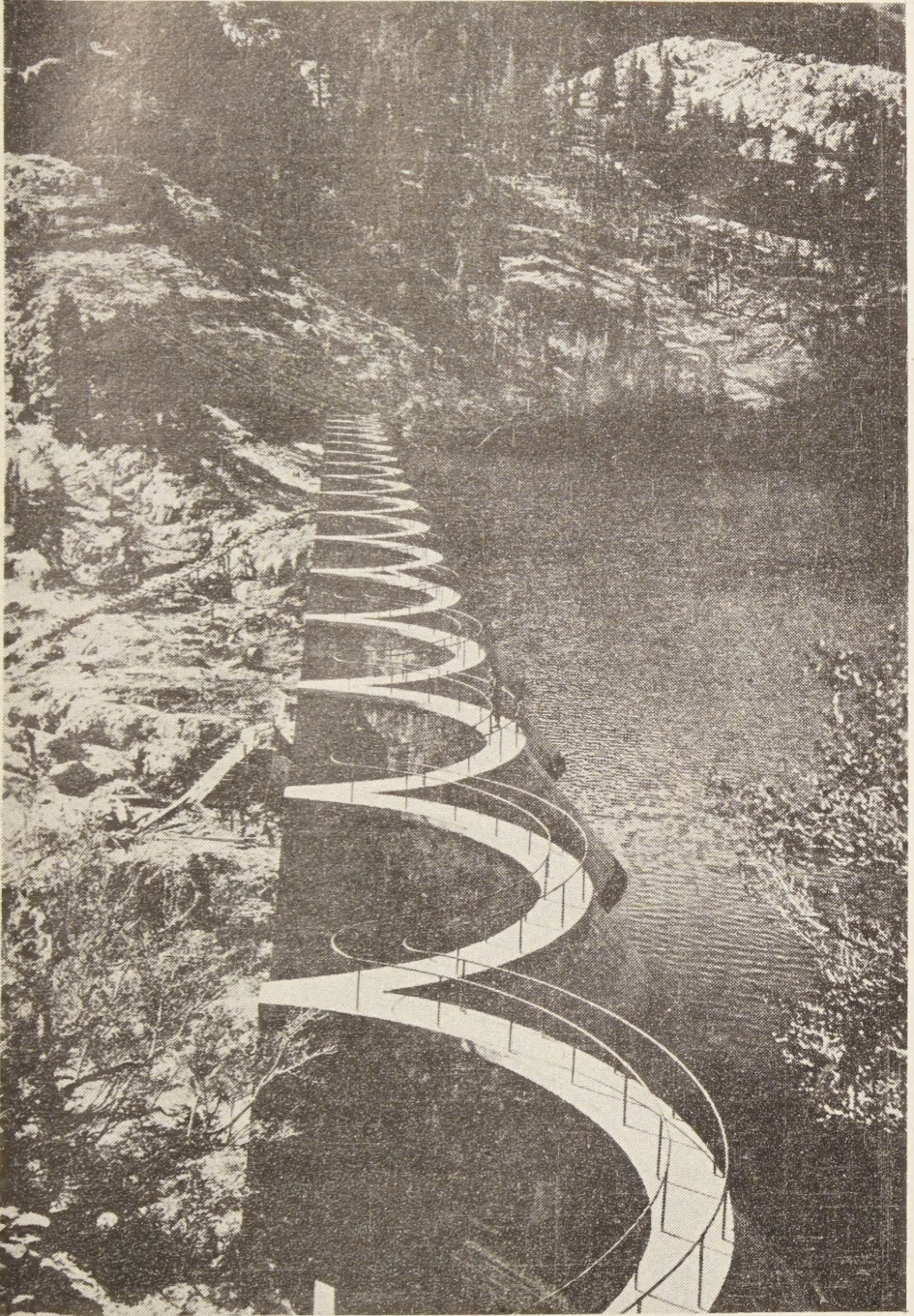


Irrigated dairy lands on the Fallon Reclamation Project which are dependent for water supply on the Mono National Forest

forest boundary but are dependent on the watersheds within the forest for their source of water supply. Power generated at the hydroelectric plants in Leevining Canyon and

at Silver Lake is carried to southern California over one of the longest high-voltage transmission lines in the world.

Two irrigation projects, with reservoirs on the Walker River drainage, have a combined storage capacity of 90,000 acre-feet, while the upper Carson River storage has a capacity of 15,000 acre-feet. The Newlands Project at Fallon, Nev., draws heavily on the Carson River for its supply of irrigation water.



F-151874

Rush Creek Reservoir and Dam. Water for irrigation and power is one of the most important resources of the Mono Forest

It is estimated that at present 200,000 acres of land depend for irrigation water on the watershed protected by the Mono National Forest, with prospects of larger development as the agricultural lands in the great valleys to the east of the forest are brought under irrigation.

RECREATION

The Mono National Forest, with its lofty peaks and glaciers, deep canyons, icy streams, and crystal lakes, has a wide diversity of scenery and offers opportunity for many kinds of outdoor activity. Carson and Walker Rivers and Leevining and Rush Creeks are outstanding attractions for the camper and fisherman. There are scores of lofty peaks for the mountain climber to scale, and the region around Mono Lake and the Mono Craters is most interesting from a geological standpoint.

region surrounding June, Silver, and Gem Lakes, and the headwaters of Rush and Reversed Creeks, noted as some of the finest fishing waters in the State. A road up Rush Creek to its confluence with Reversed Creek makes a portion of this area accessible to automobiles, but the back country, including the High Sierra, can only be reached on foot or horseback.

Climatic Conditions

In the mountains, up to 7,000 feet elevation, the country is usually open to travel by May 1, but the higher passes,



PHOTO BY EDWARD A. HESS

Silver Lake, Mono National Forest

Reversed Creek Recreation Area

No other region in the Mono Forest, and few in California, offers finer opportunities for outdoor life and enjoyment than the Reversed Creek Recreation Area, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1926 for the use and enjoyment of the general public for recreation purposes. This recreation area covers 22,000 acres and includes the High Sierra

because of the heavy snowfall, are often closed until June 15 or later, except where a roadway is cleared through the snowdrifts. The days are warm and delightful and the nights always cool and invigorating, with frost above 9,000 feet. Thundershowers are of frequent occurrence in the Sierra during the summer months. Heavy winter storms preclude camping out after October.

The most favorable months for outing trips in the Mono

Forest are the latter part of June and July, August and the first half of September.

Improved Public Camps

The following is a list of free public camps established by the Forest Service in the Mono National Forest for the convenience of travelers. The location of all improved camps is shown on the map:

Gull Lake, Silver Lake, and Rush Creek Camps, along Reversed Creek road; Leevining Creek and Lake Ellery Camps, on the Tioga Road; Green Creek and Virginia Lakes Camps, reached from El Camino Sierra at a point between Mono Lake and Bridgeport; Piute and Chris Flat Camps, along the main highway between Bridgeport and Antelope Valley; Leavitt Meadow Camp, on the Bridgeport-Sonora road; Diamond Springs and Kit Carson Camps, in Woodfords Canyon; and Camp Wells, on the Ebbetts pass road.



Twin Lakes, near Bridgeport, Mono National Forest

These camps have been provided by the Forest Service for the comfort and convenience of the public. Improvements usually include tables, fireplaces, garbage pits, and comfort stations. Travelers using Forest Service camps are required to leave them in a clean and orderly condition.

Summer-home Sites

In certain situations where free public camps are not required and the sites are attractive to those who desire to return to the same place year after year for a vacation, the Forest Service has surveyed and subdivided various tracts into lots which are rented for summer homes.

The annual rental for these lots is \$15 to \$25 each, and permittees must comply with certain building and sanitation requirements. Land for various other forms of public use, such as resorts, stores, and gas stations, may also be leased from the Forest Service.

The most desirable summer-home tracts on the Mono Forest are located as follows:

1. Along Reversed Creek road at Silver, June, and Gull Lakes and intervening points.

2. Near the upper stretches of Virginia and Green Creeks, accessible from El Camino Sierra by lateral roads.

3. Along the shores of Twin Lakes, reached by a road from Bridgeport.

4. Along Woodfords Canyon below Hope Valley.

Further information on summer-home sites and land for special use may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor at Minden, Nev., or from any district ranger.



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Gull Lake, in the Reversed Creek Recreation Area, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for the use and enjoyment of the public. Mono National Forest

FISH AND GAME

Once upon a time, geologically during the Quarternary Period, a large lake, Lahontan, covered much of the northwestern quarter of Nevada. This lake, fed by Sierra streams, was larger than Lake Erie and 800 feet deep. In receding from its former level Lahontan was broken up into a number of smaller lakes with brackish waters, which naturally influenced the distribution of fish they contained. Thus we now have species of trout indigenous only to certain waters, and others that are found generally in the region.

The Tahoe trout (*Salmo henshawi*), also called the Henshaw, black spotted, and cutthroat, is the most prominent and widely distributed species, being found in Lake Tahoe, Pyramid and Walker Lakes, and the Truckee, Carson, and Walker Rivers. Tahoe trout weighing 27 pounds have been taken from Pyramid Lake, and 15-pound fish have been taken from the Walker River.

The Mono Basin is not geographically a part of the Lahontan Lake system. Its waters, and those of Mill, Leevining, and Rush Creeks, were originally without fish. During the placer operations of 1867, Virginia Creek, a tributary of the Walker River, was diverted into Mill Creek in the Mono Basin. The latter stream thus became stocked, and the fish later spread to Leevining and Rush Creeks. Since that time, these and various other streams in the Mono Forest have been artificially stocked with other species, mainly eastern brook, rainbow, Dolly Varden, Loch Leven, and golden trout.

The most noted fishing waters on the Mono Forest are June, Gull, Gem, Silver, and Grant Lakes, from which trout weighing 15 pounds have been taken.

The State Fish and Game Commission maintains a trout hatchery on Reversed Creek with a capacity of 40 troughs. From this hatchery streams in Alpine and Mono Counties are kept well stocked.

The Mono region is not remarkable for an abundance of game, although a fair number of deer and game birds are found in season.

FIRE PREVENTION

Because of its sparse cover of brush and timber, the Mono National Forest is not, generally speaking, subject to extreme fire hazard. There are, however, certain sections, such as the windfall area in the Crater Mountain-Deadman Pass region and also portions of Alpine County, which are very dangerous. High winds, too, often spring up without warning, and cause fires to spread with rapidity even in the sparsest sagebrush stands. A word of caution is therefore issued to all visitors against being careless with fire even where the danger may seem to be negligible.

A camp-fire permit is required on the Mono National Forest before any outdoor fires, including fires in stoves burning gasoline, kerosene, or wood, may be started on Government land. Free camp-fire permits may be obtained from Forest Service officers and other authorized agents.

During the dangerous fire season smoking is prohibited on national forest land, below an elevation of 7,500 feet, except in camps and at places of habitation, and each automobile and pack-train party camping in the Mono Forest must carry a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

The Mono National Forest is in charge of a forest supervisor, with headquarters at Minden, Nev.

The forest is divided into four districts, each in charge of a district ranger. The headquarters of these districts are: Markleeville, Bridgeport, and Mono Lake, Calif.; and Sweetwater, Nev.

Forest officers are glad to give the public information concerning the resources of the forest and to render such assistance as their regular duties will permit.

SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FOREST

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making Camp.**—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. **Breaking Camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Brush Burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to Put Out a Camp Fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water, stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

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PUBLIC SERVICE CHART

	SERVICE OBTAINABLE AS CHECKED															
	Baths, hot mineral	Lodging	Boats	Camp-fire permits	Fishing licenses	Gasoline and oil	Garage service	Guides	Meals	Meat	Milk	Pack and saddle stock	Post office	Store	Telephone	Cabins for rent
Bridgeport.....		x		x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	
Chris Flat.....				x	x	x					x			x		
Coleville.....		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Farringtons.....				x		x								x		
Fales.....	x	x		x		x			x						x	
Green Creek.....			x	x				x				x				
June Lake.....		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Markleeville.....	x	x		x	x	x			x		x		x	x	x	
Mono Lake.....		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Silver Lake.....			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Tioga.....			x	x	x	x								x		x
Twin Lakes.....			x													x
Virginia Lakes.....			x	x	x	x			x			x		x		x
Woodfords.....				x	x	x								x	x	

Leave a clean camp and a clean record. Unburned garbage, crippled game, and broken laws are poor monuments for tourists and sportsmen to leave behind them.

Under State and Federal laws, a fine of not more than \$500, or a jail sentence, may result from wilful or negligent setting of fires in a national forest.

MOTORISTS

Throwing away lighted matches or tobacco, or other burning material from an automobile or other moving vehicle is prohibited by California State law.

National Forest Visitors

Free public use of the national forests is invited. Visitors are required to observe the following rules.

1. Be sure you have a camp-fire permit before building a fire on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue one to you without charge.
2. Build small fires. Build them only where permitted.
3. Before leaving a fire always extinguish it with water and cover the ashes with earth.
4. Be careful with lighted matches, cigar and cigarette stubs, and pipe heels. Stamp them out with your foot.
5. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided burn or bury all garbage and refuse.
6. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts
7. Do not mutilate the trees, or the signs and improvements around camps.
8. Observe the State fish and game laws.
9. Do not hunt in the vicinity of forest camps.
10. Drive carefully on mountain roads.

HELP KEEP YOUR FORESTS CLEAN AND GREEN

The resources of the Mono National Forest are for your use and enjoyment—help protect them from damage and destruction by fire.



Camp-fire permits are required in all national forests in California. Issued free by U. S. Forest Service officers, State forest rangers, automobile clubs, and other authorized agents.

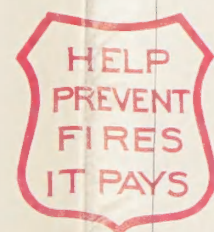
MONO NATIONAL FOREST
CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA
MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN

1928

Scale 1:62,500

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Good motor road
- Poor motor road
- Trail
- Railroad
- Supervisor's headquarters
- Ranger station
- Triangulation station
- House, cabin, or other building
- Main motor highway
- Improved Public Camp



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North American datum

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